

REMARKS

The drawings were objected for being informal and not sufficient for publication.
In response, a new set of formal drawings is attached to this response.

Claims 1, 8, 12 and 16 were objected for some informality.
In response, Claims 1, 8, 12 and 16 were amended per the Examiner's instructions.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 11, 12 and 15 were rejected as being unpatentable over Essex in view of Arentoft. The rejection states that Essex discloses the container that stores pet food, the circular pipe attached below the container, the dispenser rotatably received in the circular pipe, the motor that rotates the dispenser, and the spout connected to the circular pipe, among the elements of claim 1. And Arentoft discloses the limitations of the dispenser specified in claim 1. That is, the Examiner alleges that Arentoft discloses a shaft and two circular dispensing discs fixed to the shaft, wherein each of the dispensing discs comprises an arc recess of predetermined angle, and wherein the arc recesses of the dispensing discs are positioned opposite with respect to each other. Similar rejection applies to Claim 12.

Claims 5 and 13 were rejected as being unpatentable over Essex in view of Arentoft and Hubert.

Reviewing Arentoft's US Patent No. 4, 922,857, the applicant found that the structure of the dispenser of Arentoft, comprising the shaft 14, the intermediate member 22', and the outer members 18', 26' is completely different from that of the structure of the dispenser of the present invention, comprising the shaft 40 and the circular dispensing discs 38. T

In Arentoft, as explained with Figs. 3-5, the outer members 18', 26' are rigidly held in the tube 4, and the intermediate member 22' is connected with the shaft 14 (refer to lines 61-63, column 3). Also, as explained with Fig. 2, the block member 18 is rigidly fastened to the tube 4, the thick disc 22 is in rigid connection with the shaft 14, and the disc 26 is rigidly fastened to the tube 4 (refer to lines 66-68, column 2, and lines 1-9, column 3). Figs 3-6 clearly show that when the shaft 14 is pivoted, the intermediate member 22' is rotated with the shaft 14 but the outer members 18' and 26' are fixed to the tube 4 and do not rotate as the shaft 14 rotates. As the intermediate member 22' is pivoted reciprocatingly between the positions shown in Figs. 4-6, a predetermined amount of food is dispensed by gravity through the arc recesses 20' and 28' of the outer members 18', 26'. The dispensing action is not continuous as in the present application, since lever 6 connected to the shaft 14 is pivoted within a limited range. Also, the arc recess 20' and 28' are fixed with respect to the tube 4, and do not rotate with the shaft 14.

In the present application, the circular dispensing discs 38 with the arc recesses 44 are fixed to the shaft 40 and rotate with the shaft 40. The shaft 40 is rotated continuously. The amount of food dispensed is controlled by the time of rotating the shaft.

Therefore, Arentoft neither disclose nor imply the shaft and **the circular dispensing discs fixed to the shaft** as claimed in claims 1 and 12 of the present application. The applicant believes that the inventions claimed in claims 1 and 12 are not obvious over the cited references, and thus allowable. Other rejected claims depend on claim 1 or claim 12, and thus are allowable too.

CONCLUSION

The applicant believes that the rejections and objection were obviated by the amendment of claims and drawings, and the application is now in condition for allowance: therefore, reexamination, reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectively requested. If there is any additional comments or requirements from the examination, the applicant asks for a non-final office action.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication, or credit any over-payment to Deposit Account No. 16-0310.

Very truly yours,
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